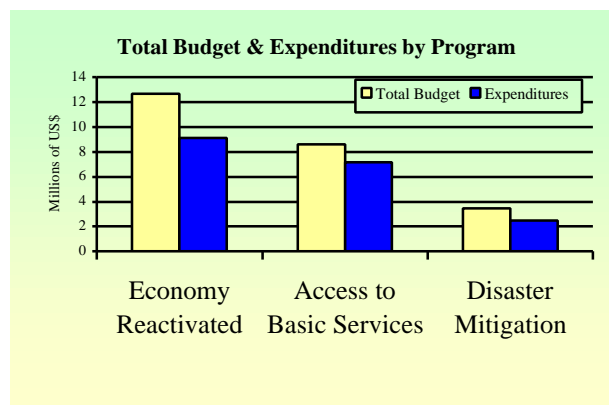
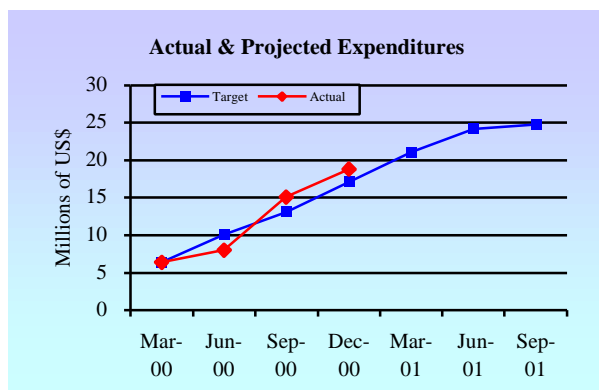


USAID El Salvador Supplemental Reconstruction Programs Response to Hurricane Mitch, October 1998 Status as of December 31, 2000

MAY 1999 SUPPLEMENTAL RECONSTRUCTION FUNDS (CACEDRF)	TOTAL BUDGET	OBLIGATIONS	COMMITMENTS	EXPENDITURES
	\$24,800,000	\$24,800,000	\$24,671,898	\$18,811,064



Impact of Hurricane Mitch

On November 1, 1998, after days of constant rain, nearly 10 inches of rain fell on El Salvador, swelling rivers to record levels, forcing the emergency release of a wall of water from a major hydroelectric dam which produced major mudslides on denuded hillsides, and severely flooding the coastal regions of the Rio Lempa and, in particular, those of the Rio Grande de San Miguel. 374 people died and 55,800 people were displaced. Economic damage exceeded \$600 million. Most of the road network suffered severe damages, 18% of the grain harvest was lost, 6% of schools were damaged, and 65,200 hectares were badly flooded.

Initial USAID Response

Immediately after Hurricane Mitch struck, USAID provided \$1 million in emergency humanitarian assistance. In addition, \$3.9 million of Development Assistance and Child Survival Funds was reprogrammed to jump-start reconstruction prior to the

passage of the Supplemental Reconstruction appropriation. USDA donated 40,000 tons of wheat and corn, which generated \$5 million in local currency. These funds have been used to reconstruct housing, rural roads and bridges outside the USAID target areas.

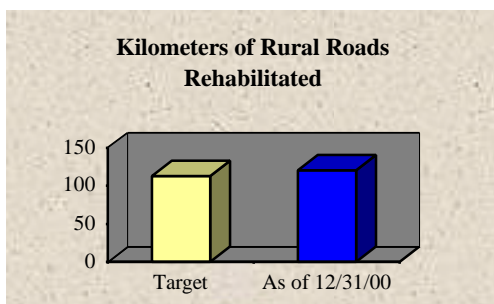
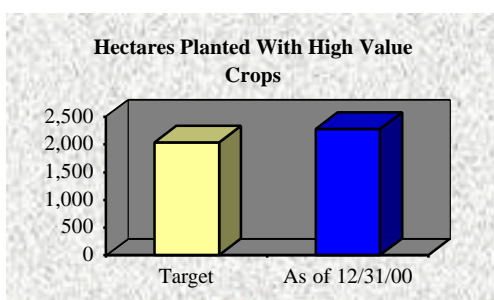
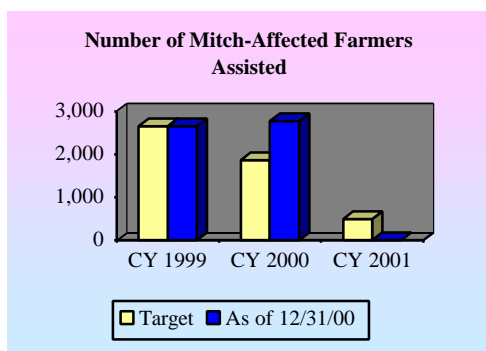
Reconstruction Programs

Based on disaster assessments, pledges from donors and an analysis of USAID's capabilities, USAID decided to use Supplemental Funds to support reconstruction in the following areas:

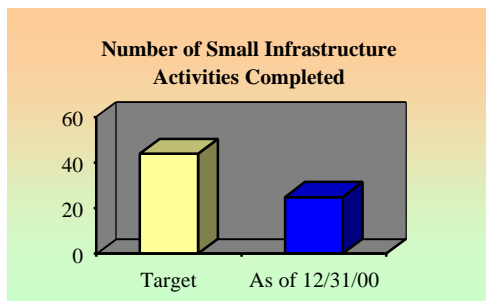
1. Economy Reactivated

USAID is concentrating most of its efforts in the Lempa-Grande floodplain along the south coastal area, one of the poorest regions of the country. 80% of the farmers in this area lost their entire grain crop. USAID's targets are to assist 5,000 farmers to shift to higher value crops in about 2034 hectares; repair 113 kilometers of rural roads; build 154 kilometers of electric distribution lines; and fund 44 to 54 small infrastructure projects critical to the life of the community

such as small bridges, tertiary rural roads, health clinics, levees, and retaining walls.

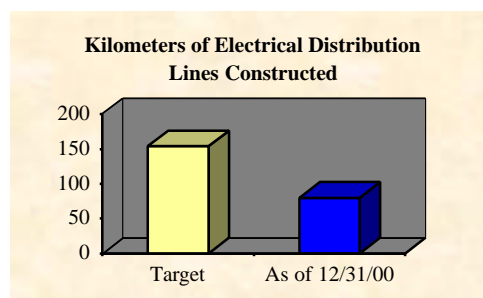


- Total roads completed and under construction already exceed the target by 23 kilometers.



- In addition to the 25 small infrastructure activities completed, 11 projects are

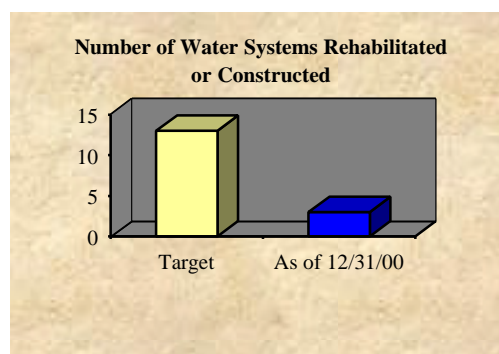
presently under construction or in the bidding process.



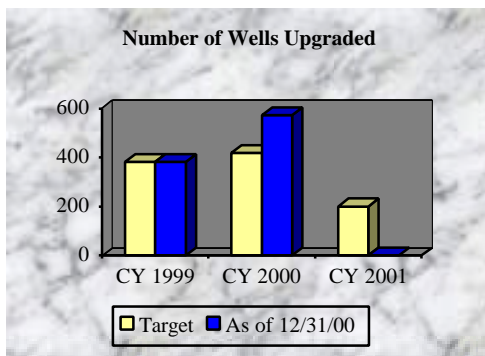
- In addition to the 80 kilometers already constructed for 11,126 beneficiaries, approximately 45 kilometers of electrical distribution lines are presently under construction.

2. Access to Basic Community Services

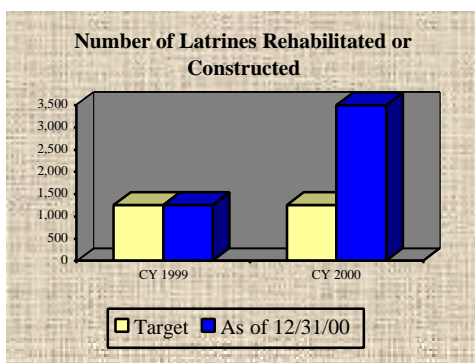
Fifty-five percent of the people in the Lempa-Grande floodplain had their shallow wells and underground water contaminated. USAID is: supporting the construction of 13 new water systems serving 19,700 residents where contamination has persisted; the upgrade of 1,000 wells serving an additional 5,500 persons; and the construction of 2,500 latrines to serve 13,900 persons. USAID is also financing the building of 500 houses to promote upgraded homes more resistant to flooding. Similarly, USAID is providing funds to reconstruct 80 schools more resistant to flooding or landslides.



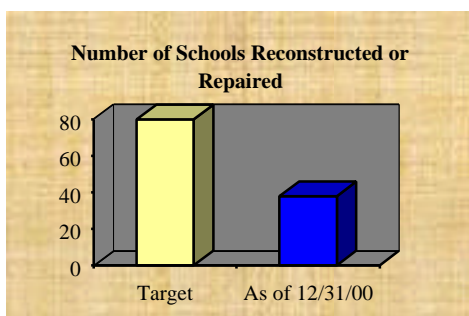
- In addition to the 3 water systems completed, 10 systems are presently under construction.



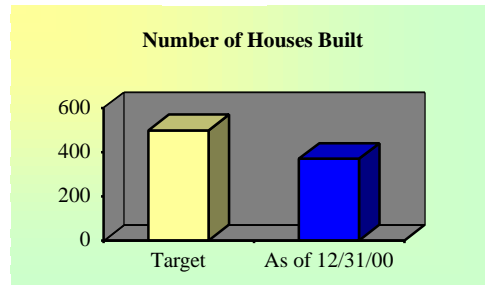
- 968 wells improved for 4,867 beneficiaries.



- 5,304 latrines completed for 24,607 beneficiaries. Of this total an American Red Cross program provided materials for the construction of 968 latrines in a community where health education activities and water system construction were carried out by USAID through CARE.
- Local water committees have been established and trained to provide for sustainability.



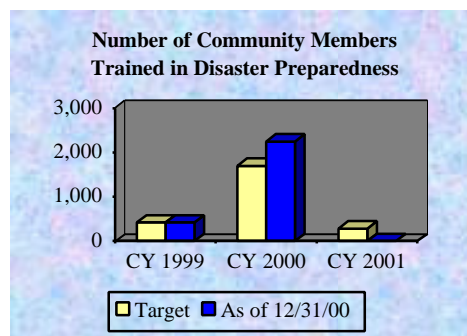
- 38 schools have been finished and 20 schools are under construction.
- 4,500 replacement desks were delivered to 59 schools.



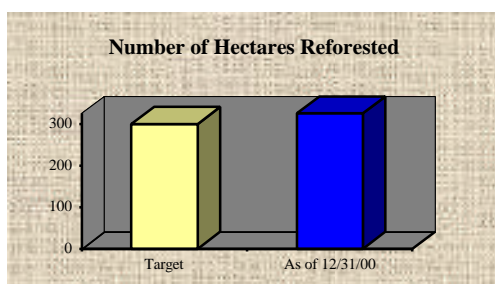
- In addition to the 371 houses completed, 122 are under construction.
- 420 solar panels were installed in community buildings, health clinics and schools.

3. Disaster Mitigation

USAID is working with communities and local governments to identify control measures to respond to critical flood and landslide problems, train 2,400 local residents in disaster preparedness, and reforest 100 hectares in selected critical areas. USAID, through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, has developed a flood control plan for the lower Lempa-Grande watershed. USAID is already implementing the immediate actions proposed in the plan. The long-term recommendations proposed in the plan were presented to the host government and other donors for possible financing.



- 2,606 community members from 112 communities have been trained.
- 8 municipal emergency plans improved.



- 490 hectares reforested. Even though the target has been achieved activities will continue.
- 32 micro-watersheds improved through water and soil conservation measures and reforestation.
- 6 rural communities are being assisted in solid waste management efforts.

Community Participation

Community participation and transparency have/are being reinforced during all phases of implementation. Six major community consultations have been held in the field with ministers, implementing agencies and other donors with the purpose of obtaining feed back from mayors and community leaders. The next consultation meeting is planned for the end of January 2001.

Other U.S. Agencies

The assistance of other U.S. Agencies strongly supports USAID/El Salvador 's Mitch Reconstruction Program. Significant interventions include NOAA, USGS, and FEMA. NOAA and USGS are installing a system to prevent flooding to communities living in the lower Lempa river. NOAA is also installing equipment to improve climate forecasts and an early warning system for the communities affected by flooding of the

Grande de San Miguel River. FEMA is working with two municipalities located in the Lempa-Grande floodplain to organize the communities to mitigate the impact of disasters and strengthen the National Emergency Committee (COEN). USAID/El Salvador is taking necessary actions to assure the sustainability of these interventions. To this effect, the Mission is conducting meetings with the appropriate central and local government authorities in which this subject has been discussed. The response from the government of El Salvador has been positive and, in some cases, written commitment has been obtained from the authorities to continue support after our financing terminates.

Success story: River gauges installed this year in the upper Rio Lempa in Honduras by USGS enabled the managers of the dams on the same river in El Salvador to release excessive water from tropical storm Keith in early October without flooding the lower Lempa region. This had been the hardest hit Salvadoran region during hurricane Mitch but was the only flood plain spared during Keith.